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BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

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1896-S Barber Dime in XF



See page 21

Photo courtesy of Brian Ribar

More Bang for Your Buck

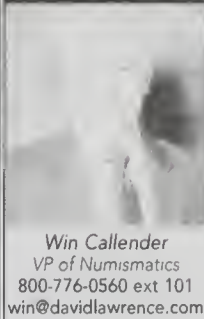
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JOURNAL OF THE
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

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Eileen Ribar.....*Editor, Secretary/Treasurer*
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Welcome to the Barber Society final issue for 2006.

I write this a week after Thanksgiving and nearly a month before the Christmas and other December holidays. This season is busy for most individuals. Time to work on one's collection may be limited to nonexistent. However, numismatics may have a place at this time. Consider introducing a few young persons to this hobby with a basic book or State Quarter album.

John Frost's efforts on the Barber Quarter survey were superb and produced a valuable resource. In studying these data, I find ratings which surprise me or ones I agree with readily. The value of this compilation is that the results provide a consensus from a large group of rather knowledgeable collectors. Some of us know more than others, but most BCCS members are rather seasoned collectors of this series. I look forward to additional surveys on the remaining series which John has planned.

At this time it is appropriate to acknowledge the key contributions from Eileen Ribar. Along with the critical position of *Journal* editor, Eileen is our secretary-treasurer. During the past year or so, she has placed the publishing schedule such that four issues appear within the calendar year. She is currently finding a new printer for our *Journal*. Of great importance, she is the voice most members know when they seek information about the BCCS. Her efforts are what make this group prosper. Thank you Eileen.

Numismatic regards,
Phil Carrigan
Philrph1892@cs.com

THE JOURNAL NEEDS YOUR ARTICLES!

Your article submission(s) automatically enters you in the BCCS Literary Contest. The article receiving the most member votes will win a 1st place prize of \$50. Second place prize will be \$25 and third place will be a free one year BCCS membership. So, make sure your membership is up to date and get your article to Eileen at the post office or e-mail address on page 3.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS March 1st



BCCS EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Tucked inside this issue of the *Journal*, you will find a flyer announcing the entries in our annual literary contest. Please take a few minutes to look over the articles listed (some can be found in this issue) and vote for the ones you enjoyed the most. Remember, to have your vote count, please send in your ballot by March 1st. Winners will be announced in the Vol. 18, No. 1 *Journal*.

Also enclosed is the 2007 BCCS Census and Rarity Survey. This, our second census/survey, focuses on Barber Half Dollars. John and Phil have done their best to make it as convenient as possible for you to participate in it. Please take advantage of this opportunity to gather data and information that will benefit everyone by reporting the number of Barber halves in each date and grade that you have in your collection.

Those of you who have not yet renewed your BCCS membership for the upcoming 2007 year will find a membership renewal form enclosed.

Sharp-eyed Ralph Vignola has brought to my attention that BCCS has gotten several very nice write-ups recently in *Coin World*. In his July 3, 2006 column titled "Dime Mint Marks Add to Varieties," Eric von Klinger quoted at length from Steve Hustad's article in the Vol. 15, No. 3 *Journal*. In the Nov. 13, 2006 issue, a two-column article titled "Many Barber Coin Dates Once Valued Simply at Bullion Levels," no author, gives a nice summary of Rich Dula's findings. It's always nice to see BCCS get some exposure in recognized numismatic publications.

As Phil mentioned, I was informed yesterday that our current publisher will no longer be taking orders from third party customers as of Jan. 1, 2007. Consequently, after the holidays I will be looking into other possible publishers for our *Journal*. Fortunately I have been given two promising leads and, since the next *Journal* deadline is not until March 1st, there is sufficient time in which to make what will hopefully be a smooth transition.

If you will be at the 2007 FUN Show, plan to attend the BCCS meeting 3:00 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5th in Room 322 of the Orange County Convention Center.

Happy New Year! May it be a joyful, healthy, and prosperous one for each of you.

Barber Half Mintmark Varieties

by **Frank J. Colletti**

In the July 19, 2004 issue of *Coin World*, Eric Von Klinger, as a part of the "Collectors' Clearinghouse," published a microphotograph of a 1909-S Barber Half which was examined by several variety experts. Ken Potter stated that the letter "does appear inverted;" then cautioned that there was a lot of wear and more research needs to be done (or "it is hard to tell for sure"). Additionally, Bill Fivaz wrote that the variety is evidently not rare, since he found two others that weekend at a coin show. Just for clarification, I never claimed that the variety was rare, just different.

In order to properly introduce the subject of the possibility of inverted mintmarks, first we should review a "normal" 'S' mintmark. As may be seen in the attached photograph (Photo #1) taken of a 1913-S Barber half dollar in F-15 condition, the letter 'S' is properly centered and clear. As you may determine from the photo, the top of the mintmark is slightly smaller on the top than it is on the bottom. In addition, the top portion is slightly thinner than the bottom. Next, note the end of the curve (top) going to the right. Compare that to the bottom portion (ending to the left) and you may note that the top portion ends before the lower curve of the bottom base. At the same time, the bottom end point extends all of the way to the end of the upper curve.



*Photo #1: Mintmark on a 1913-S
(F-15) Barber Half*

We can, therefore, use this as a basis of comparison for examining other 'S' mintmarks in order to determine whether they are the same or may be inverted (larger portion on the top). First, let's examine the piece that *Coin World* and the experts have determined as a valid inverted mintmark (with the usual caveats).

As shown in Photo #2 at the top of the following page, the 1909-S half

dollar's mintmark displays the same characteristics as the 1913-S mintmark, however, they are displayed as inverted. My opinion is that there is clear evidence that the mintmark is inverted as the experts have determined. But, there is more to come.

Photo #2: Regular mintmark on a 1909-S Barber Half



I have finally been able to acquire a high grade example of the 1909-S, inverted 'S' Barber Half. This piece, shown in Photo #3, more clearly shows that the top portion of the 'S' is larger than the bottom part. As a result, I believe that it is now clear that this is an inverted mintmark.



Photo #3: Mintmark on a 1909-S XF-40 Barber Half

The next photo (Photo #4) is of a 1898-S, taken with the eagle's tail feathers at the top of the photo. The image of the 'S' appears normal to the eye, however, by inverting the coin and now viewing the 'S' with the eagle's tail feathers at the bottom of the photo, you may see that the 'S' now appears to be "more correct." This is because the thinner portion of the mintmark is on the bottom.



Photo #4: Mintmark on a 1898-S Barber Half

Now view the final photo (Photo #5), in which the coin has been inverted and the mintmark, as currently viewed, appears to be correct. The problem with

this date, as opposed to the 1909-S, is that the Mint appears to have used a different style mintmark punch.

Granted, this one is not as clearly inverted as with the 1909-S's mintmark, but it is obvious that continued study of the various mintmarks is needed for a more thorough understanding of the series.



*Photo #5: Inverted view of a 1898 S
Barber Half mintmark*

During the research for this article, I examined dozens of 1909-S half dollars, and my finds resulted in the three pieces (the two shown plus one additional, in Very Good) that were the same variety. The study included 35 pieces and yielded three of the variety. In order to properly assign a rarity value to the variety, one must examine a far larger population to accurately determine the ratio.

In addition, there were a number of other dates that were questionable, however, even under the microscope, with 60x magnification, the mintmarks were not definitive as inverted mintmarks. This is not to say that there are no other dates that may be inverted; they were just not found in this limited study.



BARBER BITS

Greetings, all, from the suburbs of Chicago. I've recently become a BCCS member. I love the entire Barber series and I have been slowly trying to put together a collection of each of the four denominations designed by Mr. Barber. All mine grade from good to very fine, looking to someday upgrade most. Of course, I may never see the '01-S, '08-S, '13-S quarters, '94 S dime or any of the other extreme rarities that are out there somewhere. I guess I favor the dime the most out of the four, don't really know why. I also collect Morgan dollars, Shield nickels, Large and Indian cents. Well, take care, all, and happy collecting!

Tony I.

Engraver's Art: The Pattern & Experimental Coin Collection of Charles E. Barber

by **Roger W. Burdette**

Pattern Identification by **Saul Teichman**

Copyright 2004 by Roger W. Burdette

Engraver of the United States Mint at Philadelphia for nearly fifty years, Charles Barber amassed a collection of more than 200 pattern coins, and almost no one knew about it.

Charles Edward Barber was Engraver of the United States Mint at Philadelphia from 1879 to 1917. During his long career, he was able to assemble an excellent collection of pattern and experimental coins produced at the Mint. Some were the work of his father, William Barber, others from his own hand, and a smattering of examples from George Morgan, James Longacre and Anthony Pacquet.

Barber does not seem to have been a collector in the sense of wanting to display his coins to others or participate in discussions with other hobbyists. Few people outside of his immediate family were aware of Barber's collection until an obituary notice in the Philadelphia Inquirer mentioned the he had a "splendid collection of patterns."

In 1991 Stack's Inc, a major New York coin dealer, donated a collection of Charles Barber's personal papers to the Smithsonian. Photocopies were also provided to the ANA and ANS courtesy of David Ganz. Among the papers were two small notebooks: one for coins and the other listing medals. The coin book is evidently a record of the coins owned by Barber in late 1916 or early 1917. The entries are approximately grouped by coin denomination, although there appears to be little other organization to the lists. There are also several different handwriting styles suggesting that more than one person made the notations. The overall impression is of a list made as coins were pulled from a box and described by Barber as someone else made quick notations. The present author feels that the notebook is simply an ad-hoc list made at the time coins were removed from storage boxes. The lack of order or structure suggests the coins were personal souvenirs and not a true historical collection.

An interesting feature of Barber's collection [is] the large number of speci-

mens of the Saint-Gaudens experimental (“pattern”) double eagle, and four copies of the rejected Columbian Exposition Special Award medal. For someone who held a deep distrust and animosity toward the sculptor, Barber did not stint on investing in his coins.

The table which follows lists all of the legible entries in Barber’s pattern coin notebook. The notation is as close to Barber’s as possible including abbreviations. Where an entry is partially legible, the omitted characters are represented by “x.” Pattern numbers for the 8th Edition of Judd’s U.S. Patterns have been provided by Saul Teichman.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Quan.</u>	<u>Possible Judd Pattern Number & Author’s Comment</u>
Page A	Nickels		
1882	E.P.U. over V	7	J1684
1883	Liberty over Head	2	J1714
1882	E.P.U. over V. Large [Plch]	5	J1680
1882	E.P.U. over V. Copper Large [Plch]	3	J1681
1883	75 N[ickel], 25 C[opper] Alum[inum]	4	J1709
1882	I.G.W.T. over Head	3	J1677
1883	Pure nickel	1	J1704
1883	33 N[ickel], 67 C[opper]	2	J1712
1883	50 N[ickel], 50 C[opper]	2	J1710
1882	Ray type	3	J1693
1883	Cents over V	5	J1717
xx83	75 N[ickel], 25 C[opper]	5	J1707
xx71	V Nickel	1	J1050
xx71	V Copper	2	J1051
xx71	5 cents, copper	3	J1054
xxx3	Liberty over head, copper	2	J1715
xxxx	3-cent Head V		
Page B			
1881	I, III, V Copper		J1666/J1669/J1672
1881	I, III, V Nickel	2	J1665/J1668/J1671
1896	Nickel 5-cent	3	J1770
1896	Nickel 1-cent	2	J1767
1884	E. Johnson 1-cent large plan[chet]	3	J1721
1884	E. Johnson 1-cent thin plan[chet]	4	J1721
1884	5-cent	3	J1724
1884	5-cent & 1-cent Alum[inum]		J1722/J1725
1881	V, III (2), I, Alum[inum]		J1667/J1670/J1673
1869	III Large Planchet		J676
1869	III C[ent] nickel		

1881	III C[ent] nickel		J1665
1869	1-cent C[opper]	2	J667
1883	5-cent without word "cent"		
1863	1-cent	3	
1883	5-cent, (4) regular, (2) without word "cent"		
1913	Buffalo nickel (2), (1) re B. nickel, ob. blank		Second entry means: reverse of Buff- alo nickel, obverse blank, ie: a uni- face piece showing only the reverse design. – Pollock 3533?
	Facing page B		
1900	Ob 5-cent - re blank		Uniface, obverse of Liberty nickel
1900	(1) Re 5-cent – ob blank		Uniface, reverse of Liberty nickel
Page C			
1870	Barber Standard Set \$1, 50, 25, 10, 5		J809/J825/J876/J927/J996
1871	Longacre \$, 1/2, 1/4, 10-cent, 5-cent silver		
1870	Standard Sets: 3-50, 3-25, 3-10		
1873	Set of 6 Trade Silver \$	2	J1276/J1281/J1293/J1310/J1315/ J1322
1882	\$. 1/2, 1/4 Copper		J1699/J1701/J1703
1872	\$. 1/2, 1/4 Amazonian Silver		J1195/J1200/J1205
1870	Barber rv reg issue 50, 25, 10, 5		J815/J831/J882/J933
1870	Barber same		J815/J831/J882/J933
1870	Half Dime Copper, Barber		J811 or J817
1892	Columbian Half dollar		
1893	Columbian quarter dollar	2	
1869-70	Standard Silver 10-cent	12	
1916	Proof 10-cent	1	J1981 or J1984 (J1794), or is this the regular issue Liberty Head?
1869-70	Silver 1/4 \$	2	
1869	Standard Silver 50-cent (3); 25-cent (2); 10-cent (2)		
1869	Standard Silver half dol	6	J742/J748/J754
1870	Standard Silver 50-Cent	6	
	Facing page		
1873	Trade Silver \$ (xxxxxxx)		
Page D			
1873	2-cent Copper		
1877	1/2 \$ Copper Ea r Head to left		
1877	1/2 \$ Copper Ea on Shield	2	J1525 ?
1877	1/2 \$ Silver Ea on Shield		J1524 ?
1877	1/2 \$ Silver Ea with Shield. Barber		J1539a ?

1872	\$10 Barber. Copper		J1246
1916	50-cent proofs (4) <u>different</u>		
1814	50-cent	1	
1869	1 proof set U. S. coins		
1872	1 proof set U. S, minor coins		
1872	\$, 50, 25, 10, 5, 3, 1. (3-cent piece has 6 ptd st.)		Regular proof set missing the nickel 3 cent piece
Page E	\$ [Dollars]		
1872	Commercial, Silver		J1214 or J1219
1872	Commercial, high relief, silver		J1212
1875	Ship on Ob, Rv Trade sil[ver]		J1426
1878	Barber \$, silver		J1554
1878	Goloid, Silver		J1563
1885	U. S. Silver with E. Pluribus Unum on periphery		J1747
1900	Lafayette \$	2	
1878	U. S. Silver with 8 feathers in tail of Eagle		
1878	Goloid, silver (9 fine)		J1557 or J1560/1. Does this mean .900 fine silver alloy?
1878	U. S. \$ I.G.W.T above eagle, Morgan		
1878	U. S. \$ E. Pluribus Unum on periphery		
Page F	20-Cent		
1875	Sailor Head, 20-cents on shield		J1392
1875	Reg Issue	2	
N/A	Small Date. Pattern of adopted design		J1411
1875	Rv 20-cents, Sil[ver]		J1403 ?
1875	Rv 1/5 \$, Sil[ver]		J1396 or J1407
1875	Rv 1/5 \$, Copper	2	J1397 or J1408
1875	Rv 20-cents, Copper	2	J1404 ?
1875	Rv 20-cents, Silver		These three bracketed by a large "?" to right
1874	Reg Rv, silver		J1354
1874	Reg rv, copper		J1355
1869-70	25-cents, standard silver	10	
1869-70	25-cents, standard silver	2	
1916	Proof 25-cents	1	J1989 (J1795) or J1988 (J1796a), or is this the regular issue Liberty Head?
Page G			
1868	Eagle. Copper		J662
1874	Bickford \$10. Copper		J1374
1859	Pacquet - \$20		J257

1876	Dimes. CC. Silver. Reg	3	Three Carson City mint dimes
(No P #)			
1874	20-cent . Bailey ov, Barber rv		J1354
1879	20\$. 30 grammes		J1644
1869	10-cents		
N/D	Set 1/2, (2) 1/4, (2) 10-cent		
187[2]?	\$20, \$10, 5, 3, 2, 1		probably a regular gold proof set
1870	\$1 Silver ob		Obverse only of silver dollar
Page H	U. S. Coins Continued		
1907	\$20 pattern pieces. Fig Lib on Ob	4	J1909 (J1778)
1907	\$10 pattern piece. Only 50 made	1	J1903 (J1775)
1907	\$10 pattern piece. Only 550 made	1	J1901 (J1774)
1907	\$20 pattern pieces. Fig Lib on Ob	4	J1909 (J1778)
1907	\$20 pattern piece. Head lib on ob	1	J1905 (J1776)
1912	\$10 pattern pieces	1	"Face Value" in right margin bracketing these four items. Does he mean "sandblast proof"??
1913	\$10 pattern pieces	1	"Face Value" in right margin bracketing these four items. Does he mean "sandblast proof"??
1900	\$10 gold piece	1	"Face Value" in right margin bracketing these four items.
1898	\$5 gold piece	1	"Face Value" in right margin bracketing these four items.
	St. Gaudens Columbia award medals ob & rv St G's designs; rv not accepted.	4 ?	In cases in left margin

U. S. coins continued H.			
Gold			
1907	(4)	\$20	pattern pieces. fig lib on ob.
1907	(1)	\$10	" " only 50 made.
1907	(1)	\$10	" " " 550 "
1907	(4)	\$20	" " fig lib on ob.
1907	(1)	\$20	" " head " " "

Sample from page H showing the 1907 patterns.

The pattern collection presents several interesting situations with regard to the 20th Century examples. If all eight of the Saint-Gaudens 1907 \$20 patterns were Extremely High Relief versions (from the #1 models), then none of these coins were on the collector's market until at least late 1916. That means the number of specimens known as of early 1908 was only 10 or 11 pieces, all but three of which can be accounted for as far as the original owners are concerned. Additionally, these coins were usually referred to as "experimentals" by Barber and the Mint Bureau in 1907, and not as "patterns." (Barber did not seem to accept them as prototypes for new circulating coin designs until late 1907.)

A second unusual situation concerns the 1916 "proofs." The four "different" half dollars must refer to four of the five pattern obverse designs made by Weinman and the Mint for the Walking Liberty half dollar. (Weinman made three and the Mint Engraving Department concocted two more.) Since no Liberty Head design half dollar dies were made in 1916, it is reasonable to assume the coins referred to are Walking Liberty patterns. However, nothing in Barber's notebook says the dime or quarter are of the new designs, and they could easily have been from the old Liberty head design. Also, during 1916 the term "proof" was not used in relation to the new design patterns, both MacNeil and Weinman objected to the first set of polished or "rubbed" coins, and all subsequent pieces were left just as they came from the dies.

The third issue is one of nomenclature. When did the terms "Sailor head," "Amazonian," and "Bickford" come into use by pattern collectors?

The author actively encourages comment, clarification, and extension of the above information. It would also be very enlightening to know if any modern collections contain pattern coins which can be attributed to Barber's collection, or if the 1878 Goloid in .900 fine silver (?), or 1878 dollar with lettered edge exist.

* * * * *

Contact: *Roger Burdette, accurateye@aol.com*

Source: *Charles E. Barber papers. Part One: Coins and Patterns Barber Owned.*
American Numismatic Association Colorado Springs, CO. www.money.org.



2007 Barber Census & Rarity Survey:

Barber Halves

The Barber Halves survey is the second installment of a four-part project: surveys for the other two denominations will follow in the coming couple of years. Like the recently-completed survey on Barber Quarters, the purpose of this project is to revise our earlier estimates of relative rarity of the different dates in the series. As before, the study and the associated questionnaire consists of two parts:

- Census Form to allow reporting the number of each date that you hold in each grade
- Rarity Survey to allow you to offer your opinion of relative rarity of numerous dates in various grades.

You have three ways to participate in this project:

1. You may fill out the enclosed questionnaire and return to the BCCS c/o Secretary-Treasurer Eileen Ribar (you may enclose it with your 2007 Dues payment)
2. You may answer the questionnaire online by filling out the forms on the BCCS website, at www.BarberCoins.org
3. You may also go to the BCCS website and download an MS Excel spreadsheet which can be filled out and emailed to us at BCCS@BarberCoins.org.

A favor: If you can fill out the survey forms on-line (web form or Excel as noted in options 2 and 3 above), we would appreciate you doing so, as it will be easier for us to tally the results. However, returning the paper survey is fine.

Deadline for your response is March 31, 2007.

We ask that you answer the survey only once. Please include your BCCS member number (this is on the mailing label for the *Journal*). If you submit one and later wish to make a correction, that is fine – just tell us in the “Notes” section that the response is a correction and include your BCCS number.

Instructions for the Census: Enter the number of coins of each date that you have in each grade in the appropriate boxes (no need to enter zero). Just the number of coins is needed. We are not worrying about split grades or numerical grading differences (example VG8 versus VG10).

If you have any of the listed die varieties, please specify those under the designated “Varieties” section. Unlike the last census, the varieties are listed in a separate section, not within the main list. This change was implemented to reduce confusion. Please tally any of the variety coins under both sections. Hopefully, this will be self-explanatory on the form. Thanks to BCCS Variety Coordinator Steve Szczerbiak for advice on major varieties.

Please use standard grading standards. If you need some guidance, you may refer to the BCCS web page on Barber Half Grading. Be especially diligent in designating true mint state coins, including slabbed coins (we had gotten feedback last census that sliders in MS holders skews results). Since this is purely to determine rarity, please grade as conservatively and accurately as possible.

Instructions for the Rarity Survey: List your opinions of the relative availability of the different dates in the series in various grades, using the following standards:

R1: Common date and grade

R2: Better date and grade

R3: Tough date - available, but may require some looking

R4: Scarce - may or may not find at larger shows/auctions

R5: Very scarce - only a few offered for sale each year

R6: Extremely scarce - almost never seen, with only one or two offered for sale in a year's time

R7: Rare - only a few exist, a single specimen might, on average, be offered for sale once every few years

This is not an exact science, but merely gives us your perception of a coin's rarity in a specific grade. You may answer based on your experience in looking for these coins, or based on your experiences in seeing these coins being available (or not) at coin shows, shops, auctions, etc.

Most people will not have opinions of every date in every grade. This is normal as we do not all look for the same coins or grades. For example, one person said in the last survey, "I only look for VF coins, so I am offering opinions on coins in VF grade only." A number of others stated that they believed the rarity ratings in David Lawrence's Complete Guide were mostly still accurate, and only offered opinions where they believed something had changed. Both of these are excellent approaches.

If you do not have an opinion or experience with a specific coin in a certain grade, do not feel obligated to answer that item. In other words, it is perfectly reasonable not to provide an opinion for every date in every grade. In fact, offering a completely random answer in that situation will actually skew the results.

Thank you for your participation in this important project. The results will be published in the *Journal* and on the BCCS web site following the completion of the Census and Survey.

We plan to conduct similar studies of all of the other Barber series (Dimes and Liberty Nickels) in the coming couple of years. Stay tuned.

Type I & II Reverses of 1892 Barber Quarters

by **Phil Carrigan**

Frank Van Halen, Senior Numismatist at American Numismatic Rarities in Wolfeboro, discussed the two reverses found on 1892 quarters. His comments appeared in the ANR publication, "The Numismatic Perspective," dated May 10, 2004. His remarks (reproduced below) respond to a question asking what is the difference in these reverses and are they found for all three mints.

"On the Type I reverse, the eagle's dexter wing tip (eagle's right, viewer's left; the opposite wing is the sinister wing) covers the upright of the E in UNITED, but little else of that letter, with all three serifs on the crossbars of the E plainly visible. On the Type II reverse, that same wing tip covers all but the upper and lower serifs of the crossbars on the E. My own research and years of cataloguing experience have taught me that the New Orleans issue is the scarcest, and appears about once out of thirty or so times I flip an 1892-O quarter over during cataloguing. The Philadelphia issue is the next scarcest, probably about one in twenty-five by my experience, followed, of course, by the San Francisco issue, which is only slightly more often seen than the P-mint issue. Also, I typically tend to see higher grade examples of the P and O issues, and lower grade examples of the S-mint variety. Anyway, armed with this information, you are now ready to go out into the coin market and find yourself an unheralded rarity at the price of a 'common' coin. Good luck with your search for Type I and Type II 1892 quarters!"

In reading Frank's detailed comments, he discusses scarcity of the two types but editing or other gremlins omit a specific reference to which specific type is scarcer. I discussed this with Frank and he confirmed his references to scarcity refer to the Type I reverse. He was also pleased that I asked permission to reprint this in our Journal and wished our members good Barber hunting.

A similar question, "Are there two varieties of the 1892 Barber quarter?" was asked of Alan Herbert. In his June 23, 2003 *Numismatic News* "Coin Clinic" column, Alan responded:

"There are, but few collectors who don't specialize in the Barber coins are aware of them. The first variety struck has the eagle's wing tip covering the upright of the E in UNITED.

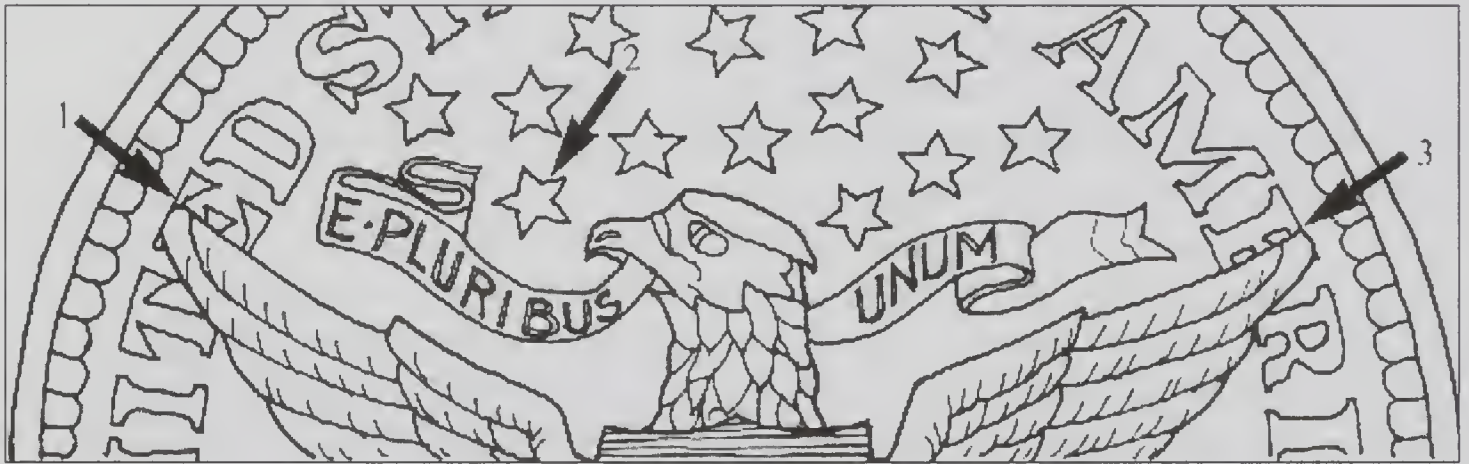
Later in the year, the die was changed and the tip covers most of the arms of the E as well, leaving just the tips showing. This latter

variety is the one that is found on all the rest of the series. Despite the first variety probably being the scarcer of the two for the year, there is no distinction made in most catalogs.

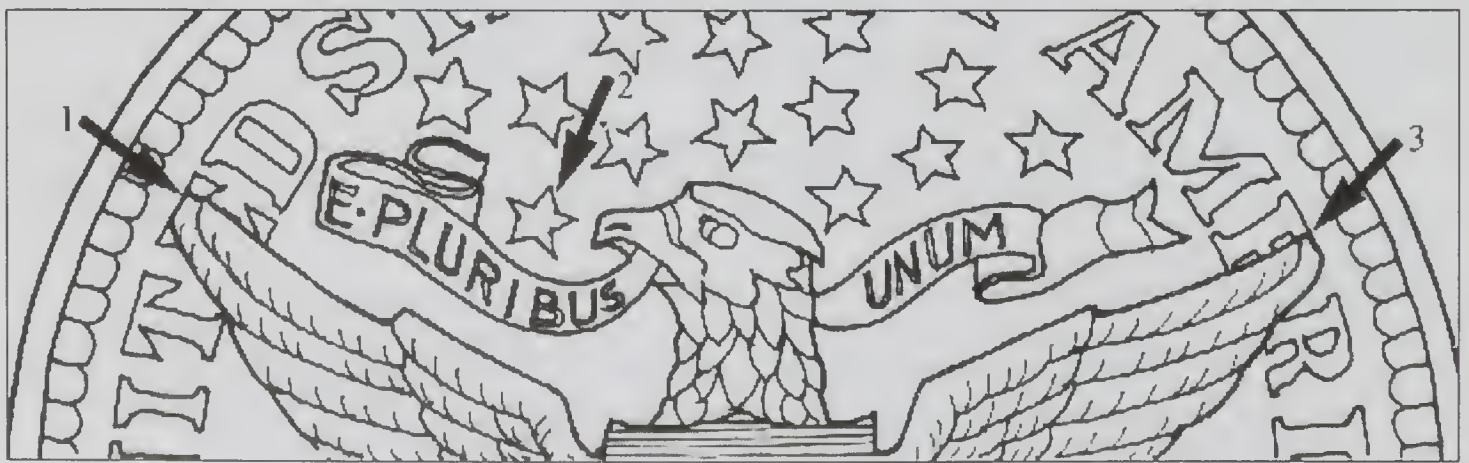
A third reverse and a different obverse were introduced in 1900, best identified by a shallow fork in the tip of the inner, or right hand ribbon.

On the reverse, the tip of the eagle's wing is in much the same position as on the second reverse, except that the tip extends into the field between the E and the rim."

Editor's note: Steve Hustad gives detailed descriptions of the two 1892 reverses (as well as the 1900 one) in the Vol. 15, No. 4 *Journal*. Steve's illustrations of both 1892 reverse varieties are reproduced below for the benefit of our newer members.



1892 Quarter Type 1 Reverse: The eagle's left wing (from viewer's standpoint) covers half of the 'E' in UNITED. The eagle's right wing covers just less than half of the 'E' in AMERICA. Type I coins are scarcer; the San Francisco Mint in particular.



1892 Quarter Type II Reverse: The eagle's left wing covers two-thirds of the 'E' in UNITED. The eagle's right wing covers just over half of the 'E' in AMERICA.

My Favorite Barbers

by **Bud Roman**

I'm still very much in the learning curve mode with respect to what is out there. I've had a tough time finding the Lawrence references and had to outbid several other interested parties on eBay for the dime book. The second edition of the quarter book is readily available, but the first is not. The second book refers to the first edition several times, but does not include all of what was in the first. Mint mark placements are an example of information that is only partly carried forward to the second edition. As I've progressed, I've found that many, make that most, of my dime doubled mint marks are machine doubled, not the real thing. I've even considered putting together a set with only machine doubled mint marks.

Your question about my favorite Barbers is a tough one. I've just never thought about it, but do have some stories about some...

My first Barbers (halves, quarters, dimes and nickels) came from my mom who put them aside as she came across them in circulation. These were all in average circulation condition and, with the exception of an '11-D half (in AG), none were low mintage coins. Through the years, these have become integrated with purchases and circulation finds, so I'm not able to say which were given to me. I'll pass the sets on anyway to my grandchildren if they show an interest.

I do have one non-Barber coin that is being passed on to the first grandchild of the first grandchild. My grandfather gave me an Indian five dollar gold piece when I was twenty-one or twenty-five, as the first grandchild, with the understanding that I don't spend it. He'd kept it when Roosevelt called in all of the gold coins in the early thirties. I will be passing it on to my first grandchild when she is twenty-one or twenty-five with the understanding that she passes it on forty or fifty years from now. It makes a link with long-gone family members so they are not forgotten with time.

I did accumulate a lot of my Barbers from circulation in the mid/late 1950s. They could still be found in circulation and I regularly went to stores and asked them to look through their change drawers. There was a lot of competition from other kids for coins. I had an older cousin who worked at a drugstore and she would put them aside for me. I was always broke even at getting them for face value. This all leads to one particular story.

I had a Barber Quarter with the head/face pushed out and made into a pen-

dant for a necklace. I'd bought it at a coin store and my cousin liked it as jewelry. She was always asking me about selling it to her. Well, on one of my "check the drugstore till" trips, my cousin had a 1914 quarter. I told her that if it were an "S," I'd trade her quarters. It was. It was the only '14-S that I had for thirty years or more until buying a better grade one.

Another that has a story is the '96-S that I bought in a coin store in California, probably thirty years ago. It was in a fire and looked terrible. I would have graded it fairly high except for the blistering and discoloration not removed by some prior cleaning. For a while I wasn't sure about the genuineness of the coin, but thanks to the quarter book [Lawrence] reference, I could find the subtle die scratches in the ear; so the odds are that it is genuine. Someday I'll send it in for authentication.

Of all my Barbers, the one in the best condition is a BU '92 quarter. It is a relatively recent purchase by mail. I found that the quarter matched the description of a quarter that was described several years ago in the *Journal*. I don't have the *Journals* here where I'm typing this so I can't readily give the reference number, however, it was the *Journal* that listed previous articles. The author explained that it appeared to be a die in near terminal state by the extensive die breaks on both the obverse and the reverse. I agree with that observation, and the one I have is further along... I've been examining my quarter trying to see if the reverse exactly matches his reverse. The die breaks appear to be the same and perhaps the condition of the coins makes the difference in what I see. Before I make any "bold" statements, it appears that the reverse is a doubled die - the real thing. So, I will continue to go back to it in different light and check myself. I am not yet sure that it is listed in Lawrence. I really need to spend a few hours on it when I'm fresh.

Editor's note: The Journal referred to above is the 2001 Vol. 12, No. 3, (pp. 11-15).

2007 FUN Show BCCS Meeting

The BCCS meeting at the 2007 FUN Show has been scheduled.
Please bring some Barbers for show-and-tell at the meeting.

DATE: Friday, January 5th

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Orange County Convention Center, Room 322

1896-S Barber Dime Suffers Lack of Attention

by **Paul M. Green**

There are many good Barber dimes, but they all suffer in comparison to the one great Barber dime - the 1894-S. Of course, most coins in the history of the United States have the same problem, as with a mintage of 24 and an interesting story filled with unanswered questions, the 1894-S is one of the truly extraordinary American coins.

The presence of one special Barber dime coin should not, however, take away from other good Barbers.

There are no shortage of better dates in the Barber dime set. From their first production in 1892 until the final in 1916, more than a dozen Barber dime dates had mintages of less than one million pieces, compared to just a single Mercury dime at that mintage level.

Not at the top of the short list, but still a better Barber dime, would be the low-mintage 1896-S. True, the 1896-S was not as low mintage as the famous 1894-S, but an 1896-S mintage of 575,056 has to be considered low.

There is no question that dime mintages then were not what we see today, but even so, the 1896-S has to be considered better.

There had been 10-million-piece dime mintages as far back as 1851, and the first one-million-piece dime was in 1821. The 1870s and 1880s had seen fairly consistent one- to 10-million dime mintages.

There were some exceptions (the Carson City dimes), but generally speaking, dime mintages were in the millions. Even the 1877-CC had a mintage of 7.7 million, which was a hefty mintage for any Carson City coin.

While low, the 1896-S mintage would not have been so unusual as to cause heavy saving. After all, just two years earlier at the same facility there had been a mintage of 24; moreover, San Francisco tended to have low dime mintages.

Also, both Philadelphia and New Orleans dimes were less than one million in 1895, and in 1896 San Francisco and New Orleans were below a million. In the 1890s, it was unusual if at least one facility failed to have a dime below one million. It happened in 1893 and would happen again in 1898.

It is fair to question how many collectors there were at the time - especially in San Francisco and New Orleans. Even if you had wanted an 1896-S, it might have been difficult to obtain.

If you look at the 1896-S today, you see a price of \$70 in G-4 - a significant price for a Barber dime. Not counting the 1894-S, there is only one other G-4 Barber dime - the 1895-O - that is more expensive.

In upper grades, the 1896-S is also a strong Barber date with a \$740 price tag in MS-60 and a \$3,500 price in MS-65. That MS-60 price is actually in the top ten Barber dimes, but the MS-65 is not, which suggests that the 1896-S dimes which were produced and saved happened to be nice ones.

The 1896-S has done virtually nothing since 1998 in terms of price movements in upper grades. Its G-4 price, however, has moved from \$50, which is not a spectacular increase, but is enough to suggest there are collectors in lower grades and probably a limited supply.

Demand is what is missing in terms of the 1896-S jumping to higher prices. The attention of many collectors has been on upper denominations, leaving Barber dimes in upper grades at similar prices to 1998. It is a quiet cycle for the Barber dime, but if things heat up, the 1896-S is likely to be right in the thick of the action.

Editor's note: The following chart gives a comparison of the prices quoted for the dates, mintmarks, and grades mentioned in Paul Green's December 16, 2003 article and those given in the November 2006 *Numismatic News* "Coin Market."

December 2003 article	November 2006 "Coin Market"
1896-S in G-4 - \$70.00	\$85.00
in MS-60 - \$740.00	\$770.00
in MS-65 - \$3,500.00	\$4,600.00

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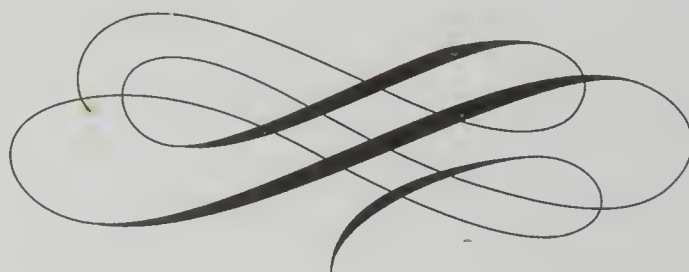
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